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BLACKS PLAN SUIT TO GET F.B.I. FILES

Jesse Jackson Seeks Data on Surveillance Program

By DEIRDRE CARMODY

The Rev. Jesse L. Jackson, president of Operation PUSH (People United to Save Humanity), said yesterday that he was calling on other black leaders to join him in a class action suit to subpoena Federal Bureau of Investigation files relating to an F.B.I. counter-intelligence program directed at black organizations.

The program was part of an over-all surveillance by the F.B.I. that came to light last December when Carl Stern, a news broadcaster for the National Broadcasting Company, filed suit under the Freedom of Information Act for documents relating to the program.

At the time, Clarence M. Kelley, director of the F.B.I., acknowledged that the program had been directed "against a hard-core revolutionary movement known as the New Left." He said that the program, which was in existence during the latter part of the 1960's, terminated in 1971.

The operation was conducted in 41 F.B.I. offices throughout the country, according to documents released by the agency in connection with the suit. The Chicago files reportedly have extensive data on the activities of Mr. Jackson; the Rev. Ralph David Abernathy, head of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, and Representative Ralph H. Metcalf, Democrat of Chicago.

Disruptions Asked

In an interview yesterday, Mr. Jackson took particular exception to a directive from the late director, J. Edgar Hoover, dated Aug. 25, 1967, that said: "The purpose of this new counterintelligence endeavor is to expose, disrupt, misdirect, discredit, or otherwise neutralize the activities of black nationalist, hate-type organizations and groupings, their leadership, spokesmen, membership and supporters."

Mr. Jackson said that the language of the Hoover directive gave new credence to allegations that, in his words, "the F.B.I. figured prominently in the assassination of Malcolm X, Dr. Martin Luther King and Fred Hampton." He said the blacks had long been aware that agents from various governmental agencies had infiltrated the ranks of black movements since the civil rights demonstrations in the mid-and sixties.

Mr. Jackson also pointed to a passage in an F.B.I. directive on March 4, 1968, a month before Dr. King was killed, that spoke of preventing "the rise of a 'messiah' who could unify and electrify the militant black nationalist movement."

"Here is a man who fit the characteristics and who was subsequently destroyed," he said, referring to Dr. King.

A spokesman for the F.B.I. said the agency would not comment on the charges but would stand on a statement issued by Mr. Kelley in December that said "We do not use illegal tactics or employ agents provocateurs designed to agitate or inflame a situation. This bureau will not fight lawlessness with lawlessness."